

Remarks

Claims 1-12 are pending.

Claims 1-12 have been rejected.

Claims 1 and 10 are presently amended.

Claims 1-12 are submitted herein for review.

No new matter has been added.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims under 35 U.S.C. Sec. 103 as being unpatentable over Silderberg (US 20030010821 A1) in view of Amirpanahi (U.S. Patent No. 5,648,906). Applicants note that the Office Action makes reference to the prior reference Lee but that reference does not appear to be used in any detail. Applicants are treating the rejection as Silderber in view of Amirpanahi.

The present arrangement as set forth independent claim 1 is directed to a method of paying for a parking space using a payment system including a payment means including receiving, at the payment system, a first payment from a user corresponding to a first authorized parking time. The payment system supplies to the user a code specific to the first payment.

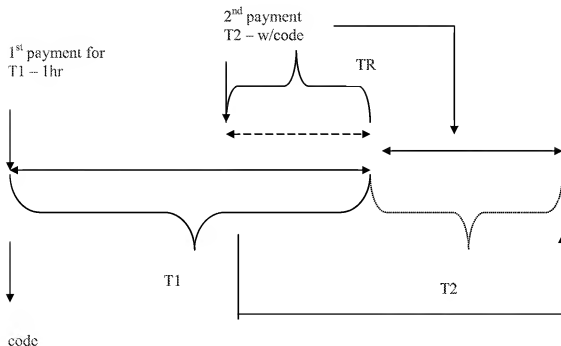
The payment system then receives from the user a second payment corresponding to a second authorized parking time along with the code specific to the first payment. The payment system increases the second authorized parking time by a residual authorized time corresponding to the first authorized parking time linked to the first

payment identified by the received code.

Independent claim 10 is a similar claim in system format.

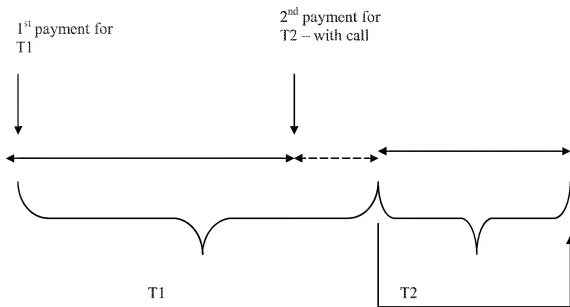
Such an arrangement allows for a user, at any time to make a second payment at any time augmenting there prior paid time. For example, if a user makes a payment for 1 hour but decides after 30min that they really needed 1:30, then they can enter their code from the first payment and pay for 30min. The new time (T2) set from the time of the second payment (30min after the first payment) will be for 1 additional hour for a total of 1:30 (T1 = 30min and T2 = 30min paid at second payment plus 30min added time from remainder on T1)

The following is a graphic of such an example:



The cited prior art, namely describes a system that sends a mobile page/call to a users cell phone approximately 5 minutes before expiry. The user may then add a second block of paid time if they need to extend. For example a user may pay for 1hr. Then at 55 minutes they get a call to re-up their payment. If they chose yes, they will pay for one more hour to start after the first 1 hour expires. If they chose no, it expires at 1 hr.

The following shows an example of such a scenario.

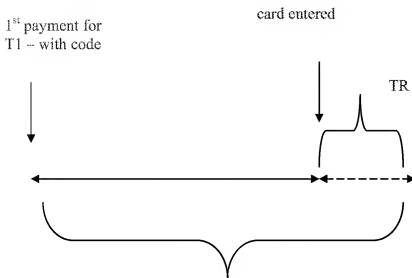


Such an arrangement does not provide a code at the first payment, and thus the user can not extend their time whenever they want. To the extent that a "code" is

provided it is at the time of the new payment call which is set by the system not by the user. Also, the second time is merely an additional block of time. It does not offer a hybrid second time with credit from not-yet-used/remainder first time.

To form the obviousness rejection, the Examiner has also cited to the '906 patent. This reference provides the user with a payment card when the first payment is made. They can then place their card into a slot and be refunded if they leave early.

The following shows an example of such a scenario.



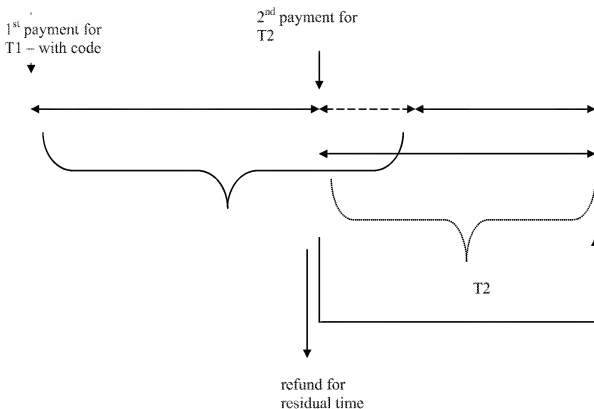
Presumably after receiving a refund to their card, the user may use the refunded amount to make a subsequent purchase of parking time as a new transaction, but this is not the same as making an additional time/parking purchase that has added holdover time from a first paid time.

The Examiner is asserting that if combined, the resulting system and method would teach the elements of the present invention as claimed. However, Applicants submit that such a combination would not teach all of the elements of the present claims

and in fact any resulting system would necessarily provide less flexibility to the user.

For example, if the Silverberg system were combined with Amirpanahi reference the resulting system would allow a user to pay for a first parking time T1, then upon receiving a call to their mobile phone they could return to enter their card in to the system (as per Amirpanahi) with a potential refund depending on the time. Then a totally new second payment may be made separate from the first payment with a separate and new time T2.

The following shows an example of such a scenario.



As such the cited prior art, either alone or in combination with one another, does not teach or suggest all of the elements of the present claims. For example, even if the

references were combined as suggested by the Examiner, the resulting system and method would not disclose supplying a user a code specific to the first payment, then receiving a second payment and the code which in turn allows the payment system to increase the second authorized parking time by a residual authorized time corresponding to the first authorized parking time linked to the first payment identified by the received code.

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of independent claims 1 and 10 be withdrawn. Also, as claimed 2-9 and 11-12 depend from claims 1 and 10, these new claims are in condition for allowance.

Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1-12 are in condition for allowance, the earliest possible notice of which is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner feels that an interview would facilitate the prosecution of this Application they are invited to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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